

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 107263

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ORIGIN NEA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66602

DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARP:SWBUCK

APPROVED BY: NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

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R 081528Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS STATE 107263

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, APRIL 8, FROM JIDDA RPTD
TO YOU:

QUOTE UNCLAS JIDDA 2533

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA, US

SUBJECT: HELPFUL GESTURE TO SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTRY

1. THE SAUDI ARABIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY HAS FOR THE
LAST 20 YEARS BEEN KNOWN AS HOPELESS IN THE FIELD OF
REFERENCES, ARCHIVES AND ATTENDANT FOLLOW-UP. SAUD AL
FAISAL, NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS (I.E. VIRTUALLY HIS COUNTRY'S FOREIGN MINISTER) IS
A YOUNG, AMERICAN EDUCATED SON OF THE LATE KING FAISAL.
AMONG HIS FIRST ASTUTE OBSERVATIONS ON ASSUMING THE POST
WAS AN EXPRESSION OF SURPRISE AT THE FACT THAT HIS MINISTRY
HAS NOT AND NEVER DID HAVE A REFERENCE LIBRARY WORTH A
DIME.

2. THE EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT WITH THE KIND OF FRESH OUTLOOK
THE PRINCE BRINGS WITH HIM HE WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME A
TANGIBLE US GESTURE (AS EXPLAINED HEREUNDER) IN HELPING HIM
BEGIN TO FILL AN ACKNOWLEDGED REQUIREMENT FOR CONDUCTING
DIPLOMACY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 107263

THE AMBASSADOR SEEKS CONFIRMATION FROM THE DEPT AND USIA

THAT THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS AND REQUESTS CAN BE MET,
BEFORE DISCUSSING THEM, MUCH LESS PROMISING THEM, TO PRINCE
SAUD:

(A) HAS USG OFFERED, OR FAVORABLY RESPONDED TO REQUESTS
FOR THIS TYPE OF FACILITY BEFORE TO ANY COUNTRY? IF SO,
THIS EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A LIST OF BASIC REFER-
ENCES, MANUALS, MAPS, ETC. WHICH COULD BE INCLUDED IN
SUCH A US PRESENTATION.

(B) WOULD AN EXPERT LIBRARIAN (PREFERABLY AMERICAN, BUT
AN AMERICAN SPECIALIZED ARAB WOULD ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE) BE
DETAILED ON TDY TO JIDDA TO DETERMINE THE LIBRARY NEEDS,
AND THE FEASIBILITY OF OUR RESPONSE. A LONGER TDY WOULD
ENABLE HIM TO TRAIN SAUDIS IN LIBRARIANSHIP AND SUPERVISE
THE SETTING UP OF THE LIBRARY.

(C) WOULD THE USIA SELECT ARABIC REFERENCES AND OTHER
MATERIAL TO SUPPLEMENT THE ENGLISH COMPONENTS OF THIS EFFORT?
IT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EMBASSY IS NOT EXCLUDING
FILMS, SLIDES, MICROFILMS, ETC. FROM THIS PROJECT. AKINS
UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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